3/21/70

Dear Howard,

Were I to read your abundant mailing of the 18th, I'd forget before I could write, I'll put it in chronological order and respond while reading.

Your 3/13: In police and intelligence circles there is a phrase, "need to know", that is meaningful and can be a satisfactory guide for us to follow. For one thing, it means no ego trips, not just wholesaling things so we can be pleased with ourselves. Thus I send you what I think will be of interest to you from my knowledge of your intrests, no more. As you know, this is not because I lack confidence in you, for you see what you want when you are here. However, just piling stuff up wastes time for the recipient, increases the possibility of idle chatter and runs a certain hazard in the mails, the authenticated stories I could tell you being right from Orwell. This is not to say you shouldn't send Dick copies of your panel correspondence, which I assume you have already done, but is intended as a guide, generally, when such questions confront you. However, I hope Dick will not be sending any of this to Lifton or anyone else, for I do plan a suit on the panel material. and I would like it to be as little telegraphed as possible, and I would like you and Dick to help with it, as my experts and consultants, including in court, where I expect to be my own lawyer. For several reasons, only one of which is that Bud can take only so much time from his practise.

In any event, you now see the significance of that particular letter you sent me, which was proof, over the signature of a panel member, that what I'd been looking for so long had existed. Until I had that proof, I had to be patient and did not ask, officially, for this stuff, not being in a position to support my contention with other than logic. Once armed, as you now know, I could (and did) press hard. I have heard by phone from DJ and I think they just may be a little shaken. I wrote yesterday reminding Golapp three silent weeks have passed, etc-and, as I always do, giving him a new one to chew. Every time they stall or play games, I make new demands. At some point they will tumble, but it will be on their own, not because I tell them. This is also a kind of game, intended as an educational one.

Generallyy, on the doctors: they are all in the same boat and none will, on his own, plea mea culpa. Maybe things will yet go that way. You will note only Fisher has responded to me but I have sent copies of all of my letters to each-and none has been returned. I wish I had the funds to subpena each and every one of those finks to be a witness. But do I look forward to questioning two myself: F&F. More even than Lumes or Biswell.

Bone damage: with all deference to Dick and his great knowledge of weapons and bullets, Wecht (who is not perfection) assured me when I first read this language to him and gave him my interpretation, that it was almost certain bone had been struck....Got interrupted.

Your 3/13 on my 3/4 SS memo: Your Kelley -arm question. I took this to mean they know better than fairy tales and place the burden on the FBI.

Viewing-Admas. My recollection is simply that Specter was not then the top thing in Kelley's mind, not that neither he or other staff members were there. The story on Adamsis that he quit! This Specter got his assignment, really promotion. You may not recall that when I told you Kelley showed S the picture, I also told you I knew this, not that I was guessing. That Specter saw it I have known for more than 3 yrs. It is, ellipitically, in the US News interview, without K.

The missing X-rays are rather completely in PMIIIm together with the perjury charge. I do not yet have the memo of transfer, but I do expect it without suit and I do know more about it. I have known about it since the fall of 1966 but was never in a position to move. Archives first toyed then denied, on the ground it is what they call a "private paper". I presume the rest of you are leaving these things strictly alone. I do expect this and it is important. It is, I tell you for now, not enough to describe it as you and the panel do, as listing the pix and X-rays. I'll tell you more when I have it. Correction on notes: we known they existed.1221 is the SS control no for the supp. autopsy. There are notes on CD498 leading to my inquiry. Slides are tissue slides, and I think I have doped out where they are hidden. You and Dick want to make guesses?

Check on the 6.5 frag you called to my attention. It is what I asked for, also structure, also identification of "missle".

To shake youxs bit more, my private investigations about Parkland orderlies since O in NO disclose other possible candidates. The Hosp. pers. washed the car, allegedly under SS supervision. My response was to ask Kelley if he wanted pictures showing the character and closeness of this supervision, to which he made no answer,

This is but one of a number of such things on which I have long been working in various ways, in this case for about three years. There are others. Perhaps this makes more comprehensible why I insist my materials be left strictly alone, for there is an overlapping. Nichols and my 399 picture provide another kind of illustration of what can happen. I now know he duplicated this almost as soon as he promised me not to.

3/17, suit: before I left DC I gave Bud's secretary a list of people to whom I'd like copies sent. He agreed. She did it. It includes Dick. Fine on calling the papers. I've not heard from either. That UPI did put the story out I know from Penfro Hays, unless he lied, for he said he read it that night in the Memphis Press-Scimiter. He phoned me. Wierdo if there ever wasone. Your letter is good. Thanks for being on the ball.

3/17, letter. Lifton, Check. As I told him, I think this was a large error on Dick's part. Instead of just backing out, if that is the way you want it, why not just not respond for a while and, if it becomes necessary, just say that between your research and writing and school work you just do not have time, but you'd be glad to hear from him if he has anything xxx he thinks you could profit from or should know.

PHONE FIL: no longer sharp in my mind, but generally accords with what you say. I have an idea where but I'm not saying for a while. I doubt it is notes (but not impossible). I think the procedures and testimony were enuf. ...The xerexes worked overtime. What I anticipate here will wait until I have exhausted all "administrative remedies", when I will make a move I've not indicated to either of you. I entirely agree with your interpretation of the significance of what he was saying and what he was giving you to understand. Agreed on neck fragments, but only as possibility, out of context....But on the two simultaneous shots, I am with Fil. One possibility no one has explored is a still later one, say opposite culvert?

I was not implying any deliberate offense by Dick, but with what he knew about L it was unwise to mention anything, something from which we could not reasonably expect an extension of knowledge and from which he had every expectation of trouble and hurt and wasted time and emotional upsets. But you are right on your own right to use your own materials first, and I surrender any rights I may have had from the preparation I gave you. I have all this sort

of thing you send either filed separately, with a Not for Use label, or marked "confidential".

It is possible to determine of a rifle had been fired recently. I believe such testing must have been done as part of what they believed would be a solid case against LHO. I do not recall any reference to any such test. This persuades me it is unlikely it was used then.

If you must argue with your history prof, and I suggest it will not be productive, why not ask him if he believes the government should obey those laws passed to require certain performances of the government and then if he believes it is proper for the government to frame even a bad man, and lastly what he things this does to the judicial system, or does he want that sacrificed on the altar of an alleged "national security".

On fragments I was going on recollection and that includes thoracic area. Good suggestion on Rhoads, but I am always so rushed + never have time to plan such things out.

3/16, "surprises". There is no reason why you cannot ask and expect that your Specter interview be kept quiet. I think it is right and I think if you'd have suggested this to Dick he'd have said nothing to anyone.

Scgwartz: I made two September speeches at his schule, 1966 and 1967, each opening the season, each with good audiences. Their best, they said. Stt I do not recall him. The Boswell letter is not exceptional for it is the self-serving you'd expect.

3/10 tentative memo on chest wounds (I'll have to be brief):

Specter specialized inasking wrong questions and asking right questions of wrong people.

In this connection, recall that Humes made the usual "Y" cut in his autopsy, so he saw or could see the insides at these points. Pg . 3, Vl, This is what Perry told me also...I do not think it was Humes who was trying to mislead Specter....What purpose was served by this deception? I think it unlikely all those people would have been silent if they saw a front-chest wound.

3/11 Specter-Humes memo. Perhaps this is oversimplification, but as you know I have been making a thing out of no non-Parkland doctors seeing the wound before the tracheostomy and the tubes distorted. Having made the Y cut, there should have been little doubt and the job required that there be none.

The sun is out, I'm pooped, and I think I should get some air and moderate exercise, so I'll read the Specter-Tink thing hwne I can. I have this one comment: Specter turned down several dozen invitations to debate me. I called him real,bad things at that schule, he cancelled one TV show when he found out I'd be on it (though 500 miles away) and may have cancelled another. I suggest this means that, wisely, he picked his adversary, and I suggest you can getha reading of Tink from it not inconsistent with what I've been telling you. It is possible to argue that Tink set himself up to help Specter (I've not read a word of this yet). I have never considered Specter a fool. Just evil. Smart, though, and I feel with a hurting conscience. I may subpena him for the pertinent suit. Or, perhaps, as a rebuttal witness in the panel suit. We'll see. When you can make it, I'd appreciate a dub of the tape, 1 7/8 is fine and takes less tape. Several people have promised but none has delivered.

Sincerely,